

Chapter 1253 She Doesn't Deserve You At All

Keely scrolled through the news online on her phone until she saw the trending story about Loraine.

She clicked on it immediately and couldn't help but smile. She felt so happy that she wished she could react with a like to all the comments that were bashing Loraine.

"Loraine again? For crying out loud, there are so many scandals about her. She really is good at stirring controversy."

"I used to like Loraine, and regardless of all her past scandals, I believed in her. But not anymore. I never knew that she's such a promiscuous woman."

"Well, it's not surprising to hear that Loraine has been exposed for being in multiple relationships. She has always been flirting with several men at once."

Such comments echoed the opinion of the public out there. Those who knew Loraine and those who didn't know her were all taken in by these comments, and for quite some time, social media was filled with posts and comments mocking Loraine.

Keely would have joined in, but she didn't want to leave any traces that might lead to her being discovered.

Just then, she heard Jorge asking the maid what she was doing at the door. Immediately, Keely switched to a children's game and acted as if she was concentrated on playing it.

When Jorge came in, he saw her clumsily trying to operate the system, but she seemed to mistakenly exit the game and end up on another page.

Immediately, she assumed a pitiful look and looked at him for help. "The game is gone. I want to play the game!" she cried.

With a gentle smile, Jorge took the phone to help her switch back to the game, but his eyes fell on what was on the screen. At first, he was slightly startled. Then he took a closer look and frowned.

At this point, Keely was tugging at his sleeve, urging him to bring back her game. So Jorge composed himself and switched back to the game before handing the phone back to her. Then with a smile, he patted her head affectionately and walked out. Once he was outside her room, the smile vanished from his face and his expression turned ugly. Without thinking twice, he pulled out his own phone and called Marco.

Jorge didn't know who Edwin was, but he had already formed a negative opinion of Loraine, so when he saw those comments, he didn't doubt them at all. The news made him very angry and he felt sorry for Marco. Loraine had only been engaged to Marco for a short while, yet she had cheated on him!

Before long, the call was answered. Jorge took a deep breath and said in a grave tone, "Marco, it seems Loraine doesn't deserve you at all. She has betrayed you!"

"What?" Marco asked in surprise, taken aback by the sudden claim.

"Go online and see what's trending," Jorge urged him. "There are pictures of her going out with another man. Marco, you have no reason to make excuses for her this time."

Marco was confused, but he didn't say anything. Instead, he called Carl and asked him what was going on. Jorge was

expecting that Marco would finally recognize Loraine's true nature and turn his back on her, but the only thing he heard was Marco coldly ordering Carl, "Go find out who posted this news about Loraine and take it off the internet right away!"

Jorge was shocked. "Marco, why are you still covering for Loraine after she has done such a thing?" he asked in disbelief.

Marco then remembered that Jorge had no idea of the relationship between Loraine and Edwin, so he went ahead and explained the relationship Loraine had with the Wilson family.

"The man in the photo is Edwin, Loraine's cousin," he said in conclusion.

Jorge was surprised to hear this. He now realized that he had misunderstood the whole thing, and he felt highly embarrassed. But still, he murmured with prejudice, "If Loraine herself was innocent, she wouldn't be portrayed in this manner. Moreover, when I informed you about what was happening, you were not even aware of this. Usually, if such a thing happened, wouldn't Loraine explain to you before anyone else? The fact that you had to hear it from me shows clearly that there's really something fishy going on!"

Marco was not comfortable hearing this and he couldn't help but frown in displeasure. But since it was his friend, Jorge, who had said it, not to mention the fact that Jorge had once saved his life, he decided to endure and tried not to lose his temper. "I trust Loraine, and Loraine trusts me," he said in a firm tone.

Before Jorge could say anything in response, Marco went on, "Moreover, Loraine is very busy and doesn't pay attention to these things. So how do you know whether she didn't see it or deliberately refused to tell me about it? Even if she knew and didn't tell me, then it's probably because she has her own reasons for doing so."

At this point, Carl suddenly walked in and reported to Marco,

"Boss, Ms. Torres has just announced that she will be holding a press conference to clarify the rumors online, and it will be a live broadcast."

Marco then broke into a smile and said to Jorge, "How about we watch it together, eh?"

Chapter 1254 Live Broadcast Of The Press Conference

Loraine had a lot of experience when it came to dealing with public opinion online. She was well aware of the fact that simply making clarifications would not only yield minimal results and could sometimes even have negative effect.

Any shrewd and qualified businessman should know how to seize every opportunity that would come their way. No rebuke should be endured without gaining something from it.

When it got to the point where netizens began to demand an official statement from Universe Group, Loraine was responsive. Instead of just releasing a statement, she held a live press conference.

With the current rumors about her coupled with the perfectly timed choice for the live broadcast, the number of viewers quickly went beyond a million at the beginning and continued to rise. Before long, there were barrages of comments everywhere. Most of the comments could be roughly divided into several categories.

Some curious netizens said things like, "Loraine has finally come out to explain herself. I don't know how she will spin it, but I'm certainly expecting an unexpected twist."

As for Loraine's haters and trolls paid to slander her, they remarked like this, "The photos are very solid evidence. There's no way you can explain that away. If Loraine succeeds in doing this, then it means that wealthy individuals are suppressing the truth and seeing netizens as fools!"

Lorraine's fans on the other hand worked very hard to counter these claims, which soon led to heated battles in the comments.

"Doesn't anyone think Lorraine and that man are a good match?" one troublemaker commented. "He's pretty handsome. Is he a star of less fame? Why haven't I seen him before now? I want to know everything about him!"

After reading some of the comments, Lorraine cleared her throat and introduced herself gracefully before inviting Edwin to sit beside her.

Immediately, the comments section went wild, but Lorraine only chuckled and went on, "I suppose everyone knows why this press conference is being held. If I say it's for the purpose of clarifying certain information out there, that would not be the right phrase. I'd rather say the purpose is to answer some of your questions."

Then she turned to Edwin and said jokingly, "I never expected that there would be a time when I would be rumored to be in a relationship with you."

Edwin rubbed his nose awkwardly and looked into the camera with a smile on his face. "Let me start by introducing myself..."

Some netizen asked, "You're a Wilson? Are you associated with the esteemed Wilson family in Zodiac?"

But that comment quickly vanished, buried under the flood of many other comments. As a result, most netizens did not take notice of it at all. But one comment was constantly being repeated.

"I suddenly think you two look like a perfect couple. You look so alike!"

Within the rows of the repeated comment, some people

occasionally concurred, with one saying, "Now that you mention it, they do look a bit like each other. Is this what couples are supposed to look like? It's almost as if they're siblings."

Loraine saw these comments and she didn't hesitate to read them out loud.

When Edwin heard those comments, he made a face and raised his hands in a gesture of surrender. "Well, you know what?" he said with a wink. "My dad and her mom came from the same womb, so of course we have some resemblance."

Everyone laughed at this, but then they began to realize the import of his statement. Someone asked in the comments, "Can someone tell me if I heard it wrong? Did he say that their parents are siblings, which means that they're related by blood?"

Again, the comments section was on fire as netizens expressed their shock.


Meanwhile, Edwin said cheerfully, "Thank you for praising me for being handsome. I don't mind if you ship me with my cousin in private. Please, don't let my grandfather hear about this. He treasures Loraine the most. If he knows that I, as her cousin, am involved in such a rumor with her, he'll definitely teach me a hard lesson."

The comments suddenly froze for a moment before exploding yet again.

"They're really related? Oh my god."

"This is ridiculous. Can these influencers at least use their brains before posting? Loraine and Edwin had a nice meal together as members of the same family, but they ended up being falsely accused of dating. Loraine should sue those influencers for slander!"

Soon, more and more netizens in the comments started to feel

Chapter 1254 Live Broadcast Of The Press Confe  +120 Points at most
sorry for Loraine and express their pity for her unjust suffering
of such an unwarranted slander yet again.

At first, there were still some trolls who were trying to further
the narrative of Edwin and Loraine being lovers, but they were
quickly silenced by the others. Those misled netizens who had
participated in scolding Loraine began to apologize, feeling
guilty about following the trend and hurting her without
verifying any facts.

Seeing all these, Loraine smiled and said, "If you really want to
apologize, how about staying in the live broadcast for a little
longer? Edwin and I want to show you something."



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Chapter 1255 Generating Free Positive Publicity For Her...

Loraine and Edwin exchanged a brief glance. Then Loraine opened the PPT and presented the project she and Edwin had collaborated on.

In unison, they announced that the Universe Group and the Wilson family were planning to collaborate and jointly establish a club.

It was at this point that some viewers caught on. "The Wilson family? Is it the same Wilson family we all know? Oh, I remember now! It is said that the grandson of the Wilson family just returned from abroad but has managed to stay well under the radar."

Most netizens might not appreciate the influence of the Wilson family, but they had definitely heard of Star Group. So when they learned that Edwin was heir of the family that owned Star Group, they were amazed.

Many were shocked to see that Edwin was so friendly and approachable, rather than exhibiting the usual arrogance typical of a rich heir. Others felt both envy and bitterness, and one even commented, "So Loraine is also a member of the Wilson family? Oh, my jealousy knows no bounds. Her widely known family is already affluent, and now, with the Wilson family added on, isn't she an example of an overly favored individual?"

Little by little, the comments began to reduce as everyone's attention became drawn to Loraine's presentation. As Loraine presented some concepts in visual form, it sparked reactions

from some professionals, who expressed their amazement and began to educate the ignorant ones in the comment section about the concepts. Some netizens declared that they'd learned so many new things while others made jokes like, saying, "I watched the live broadcast to hear Loraine's explanation of the rumor. Surprisingly, I ended up acquiring a wealth of new knowledge."


The aura of knowledge in the comment section gradually grew, and netizens seemed eager to learn. When Loraine was done with her presentation, she paused for a moment before continuing in a gentle tone, "Besides the club catering to high-end individuals, we also have plans to build relatively affordable clubs soon. Also, we intend to regularly organize a variety of events. If you spent money at the theme park or affordable clubs, you have a chance to be selected to experience the high-end club during festivals."

By now, the number of people watching the conference had reduced drastically. Those who had come just to listen to gossip had already left. But Loraine was not bothered at all. While the original number of viewers was substantial, the actual target audience for high-end club might only represent one in a thousand. Her presentation was primarily aimed at attracting this specific group of individuals to the high-end club.

Most of the viewers who stayed on and continued to listen to what she was saying were relatively refined individuals. Soon, the comments became filled with professional questions, and Loraine answered them one after the other, handling each one perfectly.

At this moment, no one cared anymore about the rumors concerning Loraine and Edwin.

Though the livestream had not ended, all the negative trending stories about Loraine had disappeared and gotten replaced by positive news, such as "Loraine's Response", "New Developments at Universe Group Park", "Universe Group Plans

Chapter 1255 Generating Free Positive Publicity  +120 Points at most Collaboration with Star Group", and so on. Loraine effectively used negative publicity about herself to generate free positive publicity for her collaboration with Edwin.

Marco watched as Loraine resolved the crisis, and he couldn't help but fall more and more in love with her. He turned to his friend with whom he was on a video call and asked with a smile, "What do you think of Loraine's handling of this matter?"

Jorge exhaled and said, "Well, to be honest, her handling was perfect. Nothing to criticize."

Having heard Loraine's presentation on the project, Jorge discovered that she was not as ignorant and clueless as he had previously believed.

Recalling his prior assertion that she was unworthy of Marco, Jorge felt somewhat embarrassed and said, "I misunderstood her. Please convey my apologies to her."

Marco was relieved when he heard this. Caught between Jorge and Loraine, he avoided taking sides so as not to hurt either party's feelings. Hence, Marco was pleased to learn that Jorge acknowledged his misunderstanding of Loraine. He didn't want to dwell on it anymore, so he quickly switched to another topic.

"I'll be taking over the Cruz family in a few days and we will be hosting a banquet," Marco said. "If you want to continue your partnership with the Cruz family, just talk to me directly."

Jorge had heard about this matter and was not surprised at all. He replied, "Okay. That's cool."

They chatted casually about other things for a while before finally ending the call. After Jorge dropped the phone, he rubbed his temples, sighed, and got up to go in search of Keely.

He had no idea that Keely, who was in his room, had watched the entire livestream and had even played a part in defaming

Loraine. When she saw the sudden shift in public opinion, she felt helpless and annoyed. She was just about to do something when she heard Jorge's footsteps approaching the door.

Immediately, she changed her demeanor, ran to Jorge, and acted cute. Jorge smiled, and as usual, he told her what he was going to do in the hope of jogging her memory.

When Keely heard about the Cruz family banquet, her expression changed slightly. The first thought that came to her mind was that Marco and Loraine would definitely appear together at the banquet. So she hugged Jorge's arm and said with a pout, "I also want to go. Take me with you."

"Okay," Jorge agreed smilingly. "I'm sure Marco won't refuse."

Keely happily buried her face in his chest, but in her heart, she was making a vicious vow to make Loraine suffer this time.

Chapter 1256 A Banquet Of Great Significance

Loraine had effectively dispelled the rumors about her and Edwin while showcasing the collaborative project involving Universe Group and Star Group. The day of the Cruz family's banquet soon dawned.

The banquet was important to her and Marco. It was significant because it marked Marco's first official appearance as the heir of the Cruz family in the upper-class social circle, with her by his side, as his future wife.

The initial events of the banquet was a success giving the quality of effort put into the preparation. The banquet hall was graced with renowned figures from various prestigious industries.

Loraine didn't give room for any mistake whatsoever, as she invited two additional people who were experienced and capable of organizing such grand gathering to support her.

One of them was Vincent, distinguished not just as a member of the Wilson family but also as a globally acclaimed movie star. The other was Wesley, recognized for his talent as an artist known as Mr. T.

Loraine was surprised to discover that the two had forged a friendship, with nobody knowing exactly when it had started.

The friendship between Vincent and Wesley was rather unconventional. Despite their initial dislike when they first met, they found common ground at Loraine's engagement party and decided to exchange contact information for further



discussions. Ever since that event, they had remained close friends.

They were both protective of Loraine. Though they approved of Marco, they were still concerned that she might be mistreated.

Their worries was confirmed when they learnt that Loraine was helping to organize the banquet. They were greatly displeased.

Meanwhile, Marco and Loraine were in the dressing room. Marco got his hair in shape while Loraine had her make up done. Vincent and Wesley suddenly walked in, looking at them.

After giving them a long stare, Wesley turned to Loraine and said with a serious look, "Loraine, you are yet to be part of the Cruz family, and you're already exhausting yourself with preparations for the banquet? Can't they get someone else to handle it?"

Vincent supported him. "Exactly! They should have gotten someone else to handle it. Lorrie, how can Marco marry you if he and his family can't even organize a banquet on their own?"

Loraine was amused, and Marco was unsure how to respond to their comments. She knew they wouldn't stop being sarcastic, so she explained, "Vincent, Wesley, I wasn't coerced into doing this. I wanted to do it on my own accord. Besides, I'm Marco's fiancée and it could be regarded as my own support to him for the banquet."

The duo didn't say a word. They snorted instead. When Loraine mentioned that she was Marco's fiancée, they found everything about Marco displeasing and had a lot of things about him they wanted to pick on.

The two fashion icons criticized Marco's outfit so badly. Then Vincent, feigning annoyance, said, "Okay, I'll have someone re-do this hairdo and makeup of yours. I wouldn't want you to seem like a misfit when you stand with Lorrie."

Wesley tried to join Vincent in his pretence. "I have a newly designed jewelry. It's a limited edition. You two can actually have it."

Loraine and Marco exchanged glances, capturing the knowing look in each other's eyes. Vincent and Wesley actually wanted to gift them but chose to do it in that fashion.

After the couple had finished dressing up, Wesley looked at them as they stood up and addressed Marco. This time he wasn't trying to nitpick, he had a serious demeanor. "Marco, you would be more powerful after you take over the Cruz family, but if you treat Lorrie badly, I won't sit back. I assure you that the Torres family will make you pay for it no matter how powerful you become."

Although Wesley had expressed similar sentiments previously, he revisited the topic as Marco was poised to gain more authority.

Vincent nodded. "Yes, the Wilson family won't let it slide either if it ever happens."

It sounded like a threat, so Loraine quickly intercepted them, laughing. "Vincent, Wesley, you worry too much. I'm getting nervous already like today is our wedding ceremony."

She grabbed Marco's hand and smiled widely. "I trust Marco would treat me nicely. Don't worry, a day like the one you're imagining would never come."

Marco was happy that she undoubtedly trusted him. He assured them, "Such a day won't come; not now and definitely not in the future, I promise. Soon, she would be my wife and would occupy the highest status in the Cruz family. Nobody in the family would dare to mistreat her. This is because I would be totally faithful to her."